(b) if so, what are the details of the foreign firms whom Govt. have invited for the said task;

(c) whether any indigenous firm has offered its services for the said task; and

(d) if so, what steps Govt. propose to take to encourage indigenous firms instead of foreign firms for the said task?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAM DUTT): (a) and (b) Government had invited bids from experienced international oil companies for 27 offshore blocks. The last date for receipt of bids was 1st December, 1986. Twelve offers have been received from seven oil companies for nine blocks as detailed below:

Sl. No.	Name of the company	Name of the block
1	(i) Albion International Resources Inc.	KG-OS-VII. C-OS-V.
	(ii) Alber-ford Resources Limited	
	(iii) Western Energy Resources Inc.	
	(iv) G.W. Resources Corporaiton	
	(v) Cordura Exploration Company	
2	AMOCO, USA	KG-OS-V
3	Britoil, UK	KG-OS-I
4	BHP Petroluem, Australia	KG-OS-I,KK-OS-VI
5	(i) Chevron	KG-OS-I. KG-OS-I,KG-OS-VII
	(ii) Texace	P-OS-II
6	International Petroleum Corporation Dubai	KG-OS-IV.
7	Shell International Petroleum, Netherlands	KK-OS-IV, KK-OS-II.

(c) and (d) Apart from this a letter from M/s. Tata Chemicals Limited was received offering to explore in Saurashtra offshore block without indicating the bid details that had been sought from the bidders. Clarifications were sought from them to which no reply has been received.

Exploration for Oil and Gas in M. P.

940. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ONGC has identified certain locations in Madhya Pradesh where oil and natural gas are likely to be struck;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) by when the work in this connection is proposed to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (c) ONGC have identified locations at Anhoni, Tamia and Dewari to conduct parametric drilling. These are expected to provide information on subsurface geology of Gondwana sediments in Madhya Pradesh: further exploration, including drilling, would depend upon the data obtained.

Progress in Shifting of the LPG Bottling Plant from Shakurbasti, Delhi

941. SHRI J.P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 242 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 4th May, 1987 and state:

(a) what progress has so far been made in shifting the LPG bottling plant from Shakurbasti, Delhi;

(b) whether the new sites for locating the LPG bottling plant have been developed and if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what safety measures are being provided at the new sites to aviod recurrence of incidents of fire and blast like the one which occurred in 1983 at the

Indian Oil Corporation Shakurbasti LPG filling station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) Two LPG Bottling Plants of 75000 MTPA capacity each are being set up by IOC and BPCL at Tikri Kalan and Asoti near Delhi and are expected to be ready in 1988. Closure of the existing plants at Shakurbasti will be possible after the new plants stabilise in their operations.

(c) The following additional measures are being provided in the new plants from the point of view of safety:

(1) Gas detection system,

(2) Heat|Smoke detection system,

(3) Automatc Sprinkler System,

(4) Hydrant system,

(5) System of 24 hrs supervision by Officers,

(6) 80-Meter green belt all around the plant.

Setting up of ONGC Office in A.P.

942. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Central Government for the setting up of a regional ONGC office in A.P. State (particularly in Rajamundhry); and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) A request was received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for setting up a regional office of the Oil & Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) at Kakinada.

(b) The ONGC has a project office at Rajahmundry, headed by a General Manager, to look after its operations in the Krishna-Godavari basin.

The Southern Region Business Centre (SRBC) of ONGC at Madras caters to the over-all needs of Krishna-Godavari, Cauvery and Andaman basins. Due to its Central location, Madras is considered ideally situated for locating the Regional office.

LPG Licences in Rural and Semi-Urban Areas in A.P.

943. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government consideration to issue L.P.G. licences in rural and semi-urban areas to enable the rural people to make use of L.P.G. connections in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) At present LPG facility is being extended to locations having a population around of 20,000 and above provided these offer sufficient potential for economically viable dealership. Subject to the above, there is no proposal under the consideration of the Government to extend LPG facility to semi-urban or rural areas.

Self-Reliance in OIL

944. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in a section of press that the country's self-reliance in oil is actually on the decline;

(b) whether it is a fact that with a view to sustaining the 5 per cent growth rate, a minimum 7 per cent economics growth in consumption of Petroleum products is essential;

(c) whether it is a fact that the self-reliance in natural oil has gone down from 70 per cent in the beginning of the